

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for shooting an original by an image shooting apparatus having a photoelectrically converting device and a scanning mechanism disposed from a support adapted to establish a reference position of the scanning mechanism relative to the original, said method comprising the steps of:
 - directing one by one split images of the original including overlapping areas to the photoelectrically converting device by operations of the scanning mechanism;
 - shooting the directed split images by the photoelectrically converting device;
 - detecting a degree of the operation of the scanning mechanism relative to the reference position every directing by the scanning mechanism;
 - extracting an effective image from each of the split images based on the detected degree; and
 - connecting the extracted effective images in order to complete an image of the original,
wherein said operations of the scanning mechanism move an image forming portion so as to change the position of the image forming portion relative to the photoelectrically converting device.
2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the operation of the scanning mechanism for directing one by one the split images to the photoelectrically converting device is moving an optical system disposed between the photoelectrically converting device and the original.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the scanning mechanism is stopped at a position where one of the split images is directed to the photoelectrically converting device and the split image is shot by the photoelectrically converting device while the scanning mechanism is stopped.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 3, wherein the scanning mechanism is driven so as to direct a different split image of the original to the photoelectrically converting device every image shooting.

5. (Currently Amended) A method for connecting split images of an original to obtain an image of the entire original, said method comprising the steps of:

placing the original in a reference position such that the original has a predetermined location and orientation relative to an image shooting device;

obtaining split images of the original one by one by an operation to change [[a]] which part of the original which part is directed to the image shooting device;

detecting a degree of said operation; and

connecting the split images in positions in the split images based on the detected degree,

wherein the operation to change which part of the original is directed to the image shooting device comprises moving an image forming portion so as to change the position of the image forming portion relative to the image shooting device.

6. (Original) A method according to claim 5, wherein the obtained split images each include an overlapping area, and the split images are connected at connection points for which an area marked off from the overlapping area is searched based on the detected degree of operation.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 5, wherein the step of calculating a shift between split images based on the detected degree of operation is further included, and the split images are connected together based on the calculated shift.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 5, wherein the image of the entire original comprises the split images arranged in [[a]] longitudinal and [[a]] lateral directions.

9. (Currently Amended) An image shooting apparatus comprising:
an image shooting device which shoots an optical image of an original;
a directing member which directs split images of the optical image of the original to the image shooting apparatus;
a registration member for providing a reference position and orientation of the original relative to the directing member;
a mechanism which, in order to scan the entire original, changes [[a]] which part of the original ~~which~~ part is directed to the image shooting apparatus by moving at least the directing member relative to the image shooting device;
a detector which detects, every time the mechanism moves the directing member, a degree of the moving; and
a processor which connects the split images based on the detected degree of the moving to thereby complete an image of the entire original.

10. (Original) An image shooting apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the directing member includes a lens system that forms the split images on the image shooting device, and
the mechanism moves the lens system to form the split images on the image shooting device.

11. (Original) An image shooting apparatus according to claim 9, wherein a resolution of the detection of the degree of the moving is lower than a resolution of image shooting, and
the processor performs the steps of:

searching an area defined in a second split image based on the degree of the moving for a second point present in the second split image which second point corresponds to a first point present in a first split image; and

connecting the first split image and the second split image together so that the first point and the corresponding second point coincide with each other.

12. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein said scanning mechanism moves the image forming portion in a direction perpendicular to an optical axis of the image forming portion

13. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein a locus of movement of the image forming portion is circular.

14. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein motion of the image forming portion corresponds to the base of a cone having an apex at the photoelectrically converting device.

15. (New) A method according to claim 5, wherein moving the image forming portion comprises moving the image forming portion in a direction perpendicular to an optical axis of the image forming portion

16. (New) A method according to claim 5, wherein a locus of movement of the image forming portion is circular.

17. (New) A method according to claim 5, wherein motion of the image forming portion as on the base of a cone having an apex at the image shooting portion.

18. (New) A method according to claim 9, wherein the mechanism moves the directing member in a direction perpendicular to an optical axis of the image shooting device.

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19. (New) A method according to claim 9, wherein a locus of movement of the directing member is circular.

20. (New) A method according to claim 9, wherein the mechanism moves the directing member on the base of a cone having an apex at the image shooting portion.